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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The McGahey et al. reference pertains to a vapor recovery system with a closed loop by-pass, and the Olson et al. reference pertains to a vapor control system with a manifold having a screw-type breeding arrangement associated with the vapor path.

Claims 1-9 and 11-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, teach Applicant's invention of a pump manifold for a fuel dispenser inclusive of a bypass tube and an air bleed mechanism for returning air from a fuel discharge chamber to an underground tank via an air return passage, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven O. Douglas whose telephone number is (571) 272-4885. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 6:00-6:30.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Steven O. Douglas Primary Examiner Art Unit 3751

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